

Come To the Water ACC Pastoral Council Meeting
St. Nicholas Church, Belle River
February 20, 2024

Present: Father Matthew Kuhn, Father Rick Aubol, Todd Wentworth, Tonya Marthaler, Bev Paul, Margaret Zidon, Tim Baas, Mary Gorghuber, Jake Mach, Randy Kinney, Josh Waltzing, Adrian Panther, Rodney Roers, Francie Peterson, Mark Maloney and Carol Gaffaney. Absent: Darcie Boogaard, Terri Anderson, Nathan Eisel, and Dwayne Waldorf.

1. Opening prayer
2. The minutes of the January 16, 2024 meeting were approved by consensus.
3. No Agenda Additions
4. Individual Committee Highlights
 - St. Mary's has been considering the purchase of a large crucifix to hang on the wall. The Diocesan Worship Office has approved the proposed crucifix plans for the church space. The approval process will continue with a presentation to the St. Mary's Liturgy Committee. They are considering a 6' corpus to be placed on a 12' wooden cross. Lori will provide a picture of the cross they are considering.
 - Margaret Zidon reported that St. Nicholas has started preparing for the Picture-taking sign-up weekend (March 2-3) for the new ACC parish directory. They are planning an additional weekend for their parishioners. The Women of the Cloth are again making quilts for St. Nicholas confirmation students. They get information from the students on favorite colors, interests, etc. to help in planning the quilts. The group is starting an outreach effort to give quilts to people who are very ill.
 - Jake Mach thanked Josh for the talks at weekend masses regarding the National Eucharistic Congress. Sign-ups went from 10 to 35. Jake reported the Board of Education will be working on plans to finalize tuition at St. Mary's School over the next months. The 2024-2025 kindergarten class is full.
 - Discussion was held on getting minutes from committee meetings to be shared with ACC pastoral council members on a timelier basis. The process is sometimes delayed because the minutes need to be approved at the committee's next meeting before being shared. After discussion, it was decided to add Standing Committee Reports to the agenda and ask liaisons to give a report with up to three bullet points to keep the pastoral council updated. If a member needs more time to provide an update, they should let the chairperson or Todd know ahead of time.
 - Josh Waltzing said the Stewardship Committee would like a liaison from Immaculate Conception and St. Nicholas to join the Stewardship Committee. The committee discussed the Legacy Dinner. There will be a Stewardship Conference February 28-29.
 - Bev Paul reported that ministry sign-up went very well at Immaculate Conception. They have had usher instruction and also instruction on the AED. They will have a Fish Fry on March 8 at the VFW. Bev attended the Pastoral Care Seminar.
 - Mary Gorghuber said the Parish Life Committee will host a Soup Supper on February 29 and March 2 prior to the Living Stations presentation. The committee is working on plans for a reception after the Easter Vigil mass.
5. Todd's Topics
 - Todd reviewed the timelines for pastoral council elections. Discussion followed on preparing for nominations, discernment and the elections. The following people will introduce the nomination process at masses the weekend of March 9/10. St. Mary's: Jake – 5pm; Rodney – 8am; and Randy 10am. St. Nicholas: Margaret - 8:30am. Immaculate Conception: Tanya –

- 4pm; Darcie – 10:30am. Parishioners will submit nominations at that time and they will be picked up by the ushers before mass begins.
- The job opening for a Faith Formation Director has been posted through the Midwest area. The updated Employee Handbook is done and will be given to all St. Mary's employees next week.
 - St. Mary's parish debt is now under \$1 million. All three parishes are in the black. Todd said he received notice that the property and liability insurance premium will increase by 34% this year (after a 30% increase last year).
 - Todd has asked Tim Marthaler to be the lead person for communications on maintenance projects at ICC and SN. At St. Nicholas, the handicap entrance needs an automatic door entry, a keypad, work on the steeple and parking lot drainage. At Immaculate Conception, tuckpointing was completed along the stair walls; working towards bell tower repair, flooring around the sanctuary and sacristy, basement walls & ceiling and the church roof. They are planning a Divine Mercy image and an image of the Baptism of the Lord to be painted in the alcoves of the church.
 - Todd said they hope to receive Diocesan approval of their Rectory Plan by March 5th so they can move forward with looking for a rectory. They have received some calls already of available properties. Todd is preparing information to present to the Finance Council on a fix for the school kitchen cooler. The church windows have been leaking when it rains.
 - Grant funds are available through a Bridge Builders Grant for any project that would connect groups of people. If interested, let Todd know and he will get you in touch with Barbara.
 - Todd handed out copies of the book, "Radical Hospitality, Benedict's Way of Love" by Lonni Collins Pratt with Father Daniel Homan, OSB. Todd asked pastoral council members to read the Intro through Chapter 3 for discussion at the next meeting. Chapters 4-7 will be discussed in April, and Chapter 8 to the end of book in May.
 - Come to the Water ACC representatives will meet with Bishop Neary on February 28th. Nine people are scheduled to go. They have a maximum of 20 minutes for their presentation. Josh will talk about things that are going well; Darcie will talk about our challenges; and Nathan will talk about ways our ACC can help the Diocese and how the Diocese can help our ACC.
6. Strategic Plan Update – Josh Waltzing reported on the work of the sub-committee. They focused on Action Step 2: *Community of Growing and Evangelizing Disciples*. They are in the beginning stages of framing the 'who, what, when, where and why.' For example, shaping how we think about the language used, changing from "going to church" to "assisting at mass," and suggested "fellowship" in place of "hospitality." Focus areas are:
- To craft a fully engaging environment
 - Community building activities.
7. Upcoming Events
- Next ACC Meetings – March 19 @ ICC; April 16 @ St. Mary's; May 21 @ St. Nicholas
 - Fish Fry 4:30-7pm: St. Nicholas February 23; St. Mary's March 1 & 15; ICC March 8.
 - Lenten Mission at St. Mary's - Vallimar Jansen will be here March 16-18, 6:30 pm (Mini concert March 15, 7-7:45pm)
 - Pray for our youth going on Castaway Retreat March 22-24
 - Harvest Pack April 19, 10am-8pm hosted by St. Mary's
 - Eucharistic Congress Pilgrimage, July 16-22, 2024

Carol Gaffaney
Recording Secretary